

## The Hawaiian Star

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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GEORGE F. HENSHALL .....MANAGER

TUESDAY ..... JULY 21, 1908

### THE CHANGING HONOLULU.

The first remark in an interview with Secretary Garfield in the San Francisco Chronicle, after his return from Hawaii, was that "the islands are thoroughly American," and it is a common remark among the visiting fleet officers who have been here in earlier days, that Honolulu has become an American city. In doing so, it has lost much of its charm to some of these visitors. They recall the glamor, gaiety and social activities of the old Honolulu and contrast it, not altogether in our favor, with the more or less stiff, cool and formal society of today. Is it true that without the forms, rules and attractions of a court to bind Honolulu's social colony, local society has developed in its isolation into a number of small cliques that are near strangers to one another? At least this is an impression not a few visitors get. As far as such a condition exists, it is probably in great measure a result of lessening of the local white population and of hard times which have kept theatres closed and social affairs generally near a minimum. The influx of more Americans, which is hoped for and, now, expected will restore much of our social activity. But those who look for the old Honolulu will look in vain. This is to be a typical American community, differing only from many others in having habits and customs made possible by conditions of everlasting summer. One other coming welcome change may be mentioned. With the influx of more voters free from local controversies, we shall be favored with a better kind of politics, lifting party organizations and platforms above old-time and personal differences which cut such a large figure now.

### WHAT IS AN AMERICAN FLAG?

Judge Humphreys' bet that a flag with 48 stars on it is not an American flag, which bet was decided against him by Captain Carter, has set discussion going on the subject. Here is what the revised Statutes have to say on what shall constitute an American flag:

"Section 1791: The flag of the United States shall be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; and the union of the flag shall be thirty-seven stars, white in a blue field.

"Section 1792: On the admission of a new State into the Union one star shall be added to the union of the flag; and such addition shall take effect on the fourth day of July then next succeeding such admission."

This statute, which is still in force, was passed by Congress when there were only 37 states in the Union. The 46th star (Oklahoma) was added July 4th, 1908.

Of course it may be true that if she had made a better start, the yacht Hawaii would have won. It also seems among the probabilities that she would have won if she had made a better finish, or done better in the middle of the trip.

Evidence of the fierceness of the graft war in San Francisco is furnished by the extraordinary proceedings under way to disbar a judge of the Superior Court. If Judge Dunne erred to the extent of libeling the Supreme Court bench without justification of law his offense is indeed serious. On the other hand, if he can show that the grounds on which the Schmitz verdict was overturned were flimsy in law, it will be a dreadful showing for justice in the great state of California.

An examination of a chart of the Pearl Harbor channel shows that cutting a straight line from the open sea does not involve a very extensive work, and the wisdom of carrying out such a plan seems very apparent. Big battleships entering such a narrow channel are exposed to risks which vary according to changing winds and currents. Should one of the big ships have the misfortune to run aground in the channel she might not only be out of commission for a long time, but might completely close the channel to other large vessels.

Honolulu has been deeply impressed by the fleet visit with a sense of the efficiency of the navy. In the handling of the big ships, the discipline shown, the splendid personnel of both officers and enlisted men, there is a showing which gives the general impression of fitness. Probably in time of peace no other navy ever had such hard practice as this one has had on its long voyage. It used to be charged that the American navy was deficient in navigation. But in view of the record now made such a charge would be absurd. The big fleet has steamed along in a close line, with constant changes of formation, all the time at the peril of collisions if any little thing went wrong.

According to the Garden Island, which stands firmly for retaining the present liquor law, the experiment of cutting out saloons on Kauai has won public favor. That paper says on this subject:

The majority of the voters were rather taken aback by the first move of the commissioners a year ago, that of refusing all retail licenses. Gradually the public seem to have come round to the view taken by the board, that the policy was not intended to and does not deprive the man who uses intoxicating drinks of his favorite brew, but it does to a great extent put a stop to the treating system that flourishes more or less wherever drinks are served at the bar. The contention that the granting of wholesale licenses only forces a man to drink more than he originally intended is a fallacy, seeing that a man can buy any size bottle he wants and drink it whenever he wants to, if only he goes away from the place where liquor is sold.

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## FLAGSHIP FESTIVITIES

Owing to the lateness of decision from an open afternoon for friends to a reception and dance by invitation, there was less of a crush of local society on board the flagship Connecticut yesterday afternoon than would otherwise have been the case. The engraved cards whereby the command-in-chief and officers of the flagship bid their friends on board from two to six were issued in the morning. Many of those present had not seen their invitations as yet, but had been sent word of them or had come upon an oral bidding of the day before to the effect that the flagship would be open to friends in the afternoon hours.

All present had a most enjoyable time. There was music by two ship bands time about and the quarter deck made a roomy ballroom floor. Decorations were in fine style, as described in advance in yesterday's Star. Governor Frear, attended by his staff in uniform, and Secretary Mott-Smith, were among those present. Choice refreshments were served in the ward-room.

Governor Frear granted a full and free pardon this morning to John Kaka Kaka, who was convicted of burglary when a boy, about nineteen years ago and who has led an exemplary life since.

The papers in the condemnation suit against the Waiakae Mill Company, in the suit for a right of way to the Hilo breakwater have been served in this city. Lorrin A. Andrews will be served in Hilo.

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